(c) whether Government wants to run a parallel banking system now on religious basis in a secular country like India; and

(d) if not, justification behind taking the said decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to run a parallel banking system on religious basis.

Disbursement of agricultural credit disbursed by banks

797. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural credit disbursed by 27 commercial banks in the country has shot up substantially according to the findings of the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details of disbursement in this regard in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The agricultural credit disbursed by Public Sector Commercial Banks has increased substantially during the last three years as may be observed from the data furnished below:—

(*Rs. in crores*)

Year	Amount disbursed
2003-04	42,211
2004-05	65,218
2005-06	94,278

Slow pace of manufacturing sector

798. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's manufacturing sector expanded as its slowest pace in the period of 5 months ending in December, 2006;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the slowdown;

(c) whether it is a fact that slowdown was due to the effect of monetary tightening measures dampening blistering demand and easing price pressures;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that Secondary Adjusted Price Manager's Index fell to 56.6 in December from 58.9 in November as also strong momentum of previous months due to slower domestic and external demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per the latest available figures of Index of Industrial Production, the growth rate of the manufacturing sector during the period April-December, 2006 was 11.8 per cent. This is higher than the growth rate during the period April-June 2006 (11.7 per cent) and April-October, 2006 (11.0 per cent).

(b) to (d) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

(e) Sir, Government does not compile/monitor any such index and hence is not in a position to comment on the movement of such an index.

Tax arrears

799. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of tax arrears along with break up under different heads as on 31st March, 2006 and 30th September, 2006;

(b) whether there is any proposal to write off some amount of arrears; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Total amount of arrears as on 31.03.2006 and 30.9.2006 along with break-up under different heads is as under: